

Community Behavioral Health Promotion and Prevention Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020
3:00-5:00 pm

Date of meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2020

Start time: 3:05 pm

End time: 5:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (WebEx)

Members participating		Vote 1*	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	Katherine Ginnis, MSW, MPH – MassHealth (<i>chair</i>)	A	X	X
2	George Beilin – Licensed Psychologist	A	X	X
3	Lisette Blondet – MA Association of Community Health Workers	X	X	X
4	Marjorie Decker – MA House of Representatives	X	X	-
5	Marilyn DeSantis – National Alliance on Mental Illness - MA	X	X	-
6	Yaminette Diaz-Linhart – National Association of Social Workers - MA Chapter	X	X	X
7	Kirsten Doherty – MA Organization for Addiction Recovery	X	X	X
8	Margaret Hannah – Freedman Center at William James College	X	X	X
9	Pat Johnson – Office of Senator Cyr (<i>designee of Senator Cyr</i>)	X	X	X
10	Jessica Larochelle – MA Association for Mental Health	X	X	X
11	Danna Mauch – MA Association for Mental Health	X	A	X
12	Mary McGeown – MSPCC	A	X	X
13	Rosemary Minehan – Trial Court (ret.) (<i>designee of Chief Justice Carey</i>)	X	X	X
14	Emily Sherwood – Department of Mental Health	X	X	X
15	Lindsey Tucker – Department of Public Health	A	X	-
16	James Vetter – Social-Emotional Learning Alliance for MA	X	X	X
Members not present				
17	Ray Campbell – CHIA	-	-	-
18	Daniel Cullinane – MA House of Representatives	-	-	-
19	Cindy Friedman – MA Senate	-	-	-
20	Amanda Gilman – Association for Behavioral Health	-	-	-
21	Carlene Pavlos – MA Public Health Association	-	-	-

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm, noting that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call. She explained that with Commissioner Mikula's retirement, Secretary Sudders has appointed Kate Ginnis, MassHealth's Senior Director of Child, Youth, and Family Policy and Programs, to serve as Chair of the Commission. Members briefly introduced themselves.

Vote I to approve the 8/20/2020 minutes: Deputy Commissioner Sherwood requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on June 25, 2020. Ms. LaRochelle introduced the motion, which was seconded by Judge Minehan and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Deputy Commissioner Sherwood provided an update on the status of the Community Behavioral Health Trust Fund, noting that while additional information is not known at this stage, the Commission should proceed as planned with developing recommendations for Secretary Sudders related to the Commission's charge of promoting positive mental, emotional and behavioral health and early intervention for persons with a mental illness, and preventing substance use disorders among residents of the Commonwealth.

Representatives from the four workgroups that had been formed early in 2020 provided brief updates on the discussions that have occurred over the past several months regarding each group's proposed areas of investment:

1. Support existing community coalitions and promoting cross-sector prevention work
 - *Lisette Blondet, Kirsten Doherty, Carlene Pavlos, Lindsey Tucker, Jim Vetter*
 - Proposal focuses on the formation of social emotional learning and mental health technical assistance resources to support the work of community coalitions and upstream prevention.
2. Build resilience in populations with co-occurring substance use disorder, mental health needs, and history of trauma
 - *George Beilin*
3. Integrated medical and behavioral health focusing on young children and families, addressing both generational and family stress
 - *Yaminette Diaz-Linhart, Danna Mauch, Mary McGeown*
 - Proposal focuses on creating center for integrated pediatric practice transformation, with the goal of providing pediatric practices with resources, tools, training, and consultation, similar to Team Up, Launch My Child, and Children's Hospital PPOC collaborative.
4. Promoting social emotional competency in schools
 - *Margaret Hannah, Jessica LaRochelle, Jim Vetter*
 - The proposal would focus on the promotion of social emotional competency among adults within agencies and schools. Work would include the provision of trainings and resources that would be part of existing integrated resource centers and initiatives, such Network of Care.

In response to members' comments on the impact that isolation during the pandemic is having on youth, particularly those from vulnerable communities, Rep. Decker noted that the Commission is in a unique position to collaborate with DMH, DPH, DESE to put forth a consolidated response to promote children's mental health and well-being.

Chair Ginnis highlighted a selection of existing mental health campaigns and resources for families, such as [There Could Be More to the Story](#), the DPH youth suicide work, and [HandHold](#), which DMH is leading and was designed as an onramp to the Network of Care.

Vote 2 to form a subcommittee: After friendly amendments from members, Dr. Beilin introduced a motion to create a subcommittee to develop promotion and prevention-related recommendations to address the impact of the pandemic - with a focus on the disproportionate impact of race, ethnicity, and socio-economic status - on the behavioral health of children and families. Deputy Commissioner Sherwood seconded the motion, which was approved by roll-call vote.

Dr. Beilin, Deputy Commissioner Sherwood, Professor Hannah, and Ms. Diaz-Linhart volunteered to be members of the Subcommittee. Chair Ginnis noted that members who were interested in participating should reach out to Commission staff after the meeting.

Summarizing the group's discussions, Chair Ginnis and Deputy Commissioner Sherwood noted the previously-formed subgroups should continue their work developing their proposals.

Summary of action items and next steps:

- Members of the newly-formed subcommittee to collaborate during the next several months to develop promotion and prevention-related recommendations to share with the broader group prior to the Commission's next meeting on December 17.
- Commission staff to recirculate the draft framework and principles on structural racism that had been developed in July and August.

Vote 3 to adjourn: Chair Ginnis requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Vetter introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Blondet and approved by roll-call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.